

March 2006
NORTHERN COMMAND

SAFESTAT REPORT

Nevada Highway Patrol
Major Robert Wideman

Overview

During the month of March, the citizens of the Northern Command area enjoyed a month without a single traffic fatality. The total number of crashes increased compared to last month and the same month last year. The greater Truckee Meadows area continues to grow at a steady rate and the volume of traffic grows with it. March 2006 was a particularly active weather month, with record or near record storm totals reported at various locations within the command. In some portions of the command area, units experienced as much as a third of the crash volume with weather related causes. In addition, the growth in the Fernley area coupled with on-going road construction contributed to a sharp increase in crashes in that area.

The Troopers of the Northern Command countered the crash rate with vigorous enforcement actions. Totals increased as compared to the previous month and the previous year in nearly all categories. Sharp increases were realized in the number of arrests of impaired drivers. Total arrests, total enforcement and occupant restraint enforcement also showed notable gains.

Commercial Enforcement efforts also rebounded from February 2006, a month that involved substantial training efforts. Total safety inspections and citations issued showed large percentage increases. The number of vehicles and drivers placed out of service for safety violations also showed large increases. The Commercial Enforcement sections remains on track to meet all of its Commercial Vehicle Safety Plan (CVSP) objections during the current federal fiscal year.

Support services personnel demonstrated substantial increases in the number of crash and arrest reports processed and the number warrants entered and cleared. The communications center also reported substantial increases in the number of radio transmissions and the number incident numbers generated.

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NORTHERN COMMAND

CRASH ANALYSIS AND OVERVIEW

	Mar 2006		Mar 05	% Change		Feb-06	% Change
Total Crashes	403		360	11.9%		364	10.7%
Property Crashes [including commercial vehicles]	273		239	14.2%		254	7.5%
Injury Crashes [including commercial vehicles]	130		120	8.3%		108	20.4%
Fatal Crashes [including commercial vehicles]	0		1	-100.0%		2	-200.0%
DUI Crashes [DUI charged]	19		16	18.8%		12	58.3%
Total persons killed in fatal crashes	0		1	-100.0%		2	-200.0%
Total drivers killed without seatbelts	0		0	0.0%		0	0.0%
Total passengers killed without seatbelts	0		0	0.0%		0	0.0%
Total drivers killed with seatbelts	0		1	-100.0%		2	-200.0%
Total passengers killed with seatbelts	0		0	0.0%		0	0.0%
Total persons killed - seatbelts not applicable	0		0	0.0%		0	0.0%
Total number of commercial vehicle crashes	23		12	91.7%		15	53.3%
Property crashes involving commercial vehicles	16		7	128.6%		9	77.8%
Injury crashes involving commercial vehicle	7		5	40.0%		6	16.7%
Fatal crashes involving commercial vehicle	0		0	0.0%		0	0.0%

Percentage of fatal crashes to total crashes 0.0%

Percentage of DUI crashes to total crashes 4.7%

Percentage of persons killed *without* seatbelts to total persons killed 0.0%

Percentage of commercial vehicle crashes to total crashes 5.7%

CRASH ANALYSIS:

The Northern Command had an increase in crashes this month in almost every category. The weather played a significant part in the increase with several storms hitting the area. Road construction also had a significant impact this month. The Fernley/Fallon District showed a total crash increase of 68.9% over last month, and 81% over the previous year. These increases were due to two major construction projects in Fernley. They were almost the entire reason the region showed such an increase in total crashes. The Fernley/Fallon District is actively enforcing the traffic laws (a 22.4% increase over last month) and working with both NDOT and the construction company to reduce crashes in that area through safety meetings and suggested improvements. The good news is that the major construction in the Reno and Carson areas are almost completed. There were no fatal crashes this month.

FIELD ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY

[Analysis and review of current reporting period, versus same period in previous fiscal year, versus previous reporting period]

	Mar 06		Mar 05	% Change		Feb 06	% Change
DUI arrests from crashes **	19		16	18.8%		12	58.3%
DUI arrests <i>prior</i> to crashes **	122		82	48.8%		48	154.2%
Other Arrests	505		393	28.5%		315	60.3%
Total persons arrested (DUI included) **	241		191	26.2%		152	58.6%
Speed violations	2011		2151	-6.5%		1945	3.4%
Hazardous moving violations	801		715	12.0%		726	10.3%
Occupant restraint violations *	403		453	-11.0%		335	20.3%
Total violations [above violations included]	5877		5527	6.3%		5142	14.3%
Commercial Enforcement							
Hazardous moving violations - citations/arrests	68		26	161.5%		39	74.4%
Other traffic violations - citations/arrests	80		26	207.7%		75	6.7%
Total safety inspections [level 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6]	840		694	21.0%		531	58.2%
Terminal inspections [level 5] CR only	3		0	300.0%		1	200.0%
Total safety violations -- citation	398		307	29.6%		265	50.2%
Total safety violations -- repair order	2610		2050	27.3%		1698	53.7%
Total vehicles placed "Out of Service"	111		133	-16.5%		58	91.4%
Total drivers placed "Out of Service"	66		64	3.1%		40	65.0%
Total school buses inspected	121		255	-52.5%		186	-34.9%
Total school buses placed "Out of Service"	24		68	-64.7%		15	60.0%
Total trucks weighed	262		413	-36.6%		579	-54.7%
Total overweight citations	94		69	36.2%		39	141.0%
Total dyed fuel inspections	383		808	-52.6%		277	38.3%
Total dyed fuel citations	1		2	-50.0%		0	100.0%

* Seat belt and child restraint

** Commercial Enforcement Activity Included

FIELD ENFORCEMENT:

The troopers in the Northern Command did an outstanding job in enforcement this month. Every category was improved over last month, and almost every category over last year.

DUI arrests were increased an outstanding 154.2% over last month. In real numbers, 74 additional (122 total) impaired drivers were removed from our roadways before a crash could occur. Total violations were increased by 14.3%. Seatbelt violations increased by 20.3%. Hazardous moving violations were increased by 10.3%.

The Commercial Enforcement Section remains dedicated to its mission and is ahead of established goals in almost every category.

RENO URBAN TRAFFIC

The Reno Urban area was staffed with 34 total troopers during the month of March. However, two of the troopers are in the PSTO training phase, which brings the available manpower down by two at any given time. A trooper returned from a special assignment and a trooper returned from the background unit.

The crash statistics remained relatively the same as last month with one more collision investigated in March. However, there was a 3% decrease in crashes over the same period last year. Injury crashes accounted for 32% of the total crashes investigated, but 43 of the 65 injury crashes were claimed injury only. Of the 200 crashes in the urban area, only 22 of those accidents were serious enough to require medical attention. Because of the severe weather this month, 82 of the 200 crashes were listed as being weather related.

Some of the decrease in crash statistics can be attributed to the opening of the spaghetti bowl area and decreased construction zones. Another factor is the notable increase in overall activity this month. Total violations increased by more than 9% over last month. The most significant increases were in DUI arrests prior to crashes, which went from 43 last month to 84, and total arrests, which went from 190 to 310 total arrests.

With the increase in manpower, favorable weather conditions and less construction zone crashes the urban area looks to build on these improvements.

CARSON/TAHOE/MINDEN

The Carson/Tahoe/Minden District showed a slight increase in the total number of traffic accidents from last month as well as to last year. Dayshift showed an increase in injury accidents from both last month and last year; however, property damage accidents remained the same for last month and increased from last year. For the month of March, the CTM Area is continuing to see a large number of weather related accidents, with the majority of them in the Lake Tahoe area. There were no fatal crashes.

CTM showed an increase in enforcement activity from both last year and last month. Dayshift conducted directed enforcement twice in the month of March. Swing Shift did not conduct directed enforcement for the month of March. Directed enforcement was limited due to inclement weather. It is anticipated that April will bring better weather to allow for more directed enforcement. Dayshift has been working individually on the US 395 by-pass and has been doing very well with speed enforcement. They have identified that speed is already becoming an issue and they are being proactive in an attempt to reduce it.

During the month of February 2006, the CTM District was staffed with 16 Troopers and two (2) Sergeants. Currently, one trooper is still on military leave and is scheduled to return in mid May 2006.

FERNLEY/FALLON

The Fallon / Fernley rural district is currently staffed with 17 Troopers and 2 Sergeants. The Fernley area is currently training a new trooper who will be stationed in the Fernley area.

There were 76 crashes occurring within the rural area within the month of March. The increase in crashes is attributed to inclement weather throughout the area and the road construction project on US50 Alternate. Winter storms caused 18 weather related crashes. Of the crashes, 2 were vehicle vs. animal crashes and 2 level one investigations are being conducted within the Fallon area. In the area of the construction zone, 9 crashes occurred last month. This was an increase of 2 crashes over the previous month. A directed

enforcement plan was placed into operation as of March 27, for the constructions zone, to assist in minimizing the crashes occurring. The I-80 corridor, beat RF15 is commonly a high crash area for the rural area.

On March 29, the rural troopers and air operations combined in an effort to reduce crashes by working a double mission within the Derby Dam area of I-80. Two 3 hour missions worked eastbound and westbound during commuter hours. Enforcement totaled 115 violations, consisting of 89 speed violations, 4 hazardous, 19 non-hazardous, 3 seatbelt, 2 impounds, and 1 DUI arrest. An effort well noted and a job well done by all involved.

The district's productivity increased over last month. The increase is attributed to the troopers' dedication to reduce crashes within directed enforcement areas and special enforcement programs.

COMMERCIAL ENFORCEMENT

At the end of March 2006, the Northern Command Commercial Enforcement Section was ahead in its year to date goals in Level I/II/III inspections, Level II/III enforcement inspections, interstate/secondary roadway weight enforcement and compliance reviews.

March is the last month of the second quarter of the Federal Fiscal Year and is the halfway point for goal achievements (50%). The Northern Command has achieved 63.05% of its level I inspections, 66.60% of its level II/III inspections, 182.49% of its level 2/3 enforcement inspections and 60.62% of trucks weighed on interstate highways. The region is still slightly behind in hazardous materials and motor coach inspections. During the month of April, commercial dayshift personnel will increase inspection activities on vehicles transporting hazardous materials and swing shift will increase inspection activities on vehicles transporting passengers. It is anticipated that all year to date deficiencies will be resolved by the end of April.

During the month of March, the Commercial Vehicle Safety Inspectors continued with the spring inspection cycle of school buses in the Northern Command. The majority of the rural school buses were completed and the CVSI's will complete the Washoe County School District in April. In addition, The Northern Command will continue to monitor the out-of-service ratio of buses at the Washoe County School District. In March, two Northern Command CVSI's completed several safety audits with the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA). The safety audits have prepped the CVSI's for the upcoming April compliance review certification course.

The Commercial Enforcement Section is still participating in the Southern Command Strike-Force (STEP) program. The Northern Command sent four commercial personnel to Las Vegas during the last week of February. The STEP program is designed to saturate enforcement efforts in the accident corridors of the Las Vegas Valley and reduce CMV crashes. The Northern Command personnel completed over 100 inspections, 200 mechanical repair orders and 11 overweight citations. During this operation, there were no CMV accidents on the targeted roadways and two of the local radio stations were commenting on "NHP presence and enforcement of the 55 mph speed zone."

Finally, in March, five CHP commercial officers worked a joint check-site with NHP commercial personnel at the Mustang facility. The focus during this check-site was securement issues on commercial vehicles carrying hay and the electronic/software equipment, which NHP presently uses.

AIR OPERATIONS

Two aircraft flew a combined total of 42.7 hours during March.

12 speed enforcement missions were scheduled for the month; six were cancelled due to inclement weather. Six enforcement missions were flown for a total of 314 violations. One drunk driver was arrested.

Four in-state prisoner transports were conducted for a total of 11.4 hours of flight time.

Two pilots accomplished their IFR currency training during the month, which accounted for 4.8 hours of flight time.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES	Mar 2006	Mar 2005	Change	Feb 2006	Change
FRONT OFFICE					
Accident Reports Processed	470	328	+43.30%	401	+17.21%
Arrest Reports Processed	216	186	+16.13%	122	+77.05%
Incident / Officer Reports Processed	17	8	112.50%	17	0%
Office Accident Reports Taken	25	20	+25%	41	-39.02%
COURT / WARRANT					
Warrants Received	517	422	22.51%	534	-3.18%
Warrants Entered	355	615	-42.28%	176	+101.70%
Warrants Cleared	556	501	10.98%	405	+37.28%
Warrants Validated	179	186	-3.76%	152	+17.76%
Citations Processed	2638	4477	-41.08%	3754	-29.73%
COMMUNICATION CENTER					
Radio Transmissions	111418	89895	23.94%	106186	4.93%
CAD incidents	14711	9843	49.46%	13523	8.79%

FRONT OFFICE

One Administrative Assistant II position is currently vacant. We conducted interviews on March 31, and offered four candidates background packets. Sick leave increased this period by 60%, with compensatory leave significantly increasing as well. Annual leave also increased by 69%. Paid overtime decreased by 8% and compensatory overtime decreased 83%, even with the vacant position. Overtime for pay is still being utilized for basic warrant entry.

Office reports taken have decreased by 39%. Accident reports taken by troopers increased by 17% this period, and arrest reports increased 77%. Incident reports taken by officers stayed the same at 17%. More time was available for better customer service with only 25 office reports being handled by front office staff.

Goals for the administrative section: Complete training both clerks in Court Warrants to prepare them adequately to handle the business from Carson City with minimal assistance from the Reno office.

COURT WARRANTS

Regular citations processed decreased by 30% from the last rating period. Warrant entry is current through the first of November. The second vacant warrants position has been filled by another transfer from the Parole and Probation Fugitive Unit. The starting date will be April 10, 2006. The Court Warrants Officer, and support staff (including Citations) has been moved back into the old data entry office in the front office area. One clerk is still being utilized as a trainer to the two new clerks in the warrants office. The warrants themselves as well as support personnel will remain in the same location until the move to the new building in Carson City is completed.

There was a 3% decrease in new warrants received. Warrants entered increased by 102% with the hiring of one vacant position, and overtime from the front office clerks. Warrant "clears" increased this period by 37% and validations increased 18%. The clerk utilized as a "trainer" performed 3 court runs; handled 72 subpoenas, 30 pieces of transport paperwork, and 39 separate issues with court paperwork. She was also utilized to fill in for vacancies in the front office.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Northern Command Communication center remained down two PSD I and one PSD IV positions during March. Two more PSD I positions were vacated in March bringing the total of vacant positions to 5, one third of our staff. There is one PSD currently in training, who will be released in the next few months. One trainee was released this month to work as a fulltime PSD I.

Total work hours lost decreased by 2.34% since last month, primarily due to a decrease in annual leave. It was also decreased by 41% from the previous year, due to a decrease in annual and sick leaves.

Compensatory overtime increased by 52.38% when compared to last month. Overtime as a whole increased by 75.80% when compared to the same period last year and increased by 55.61% when compared to last month. Both amounts are due to the increased number of vacancies in the Center. The coverage of vacant positions accounted for 62.5% of the comp overtime and 52.05% of the paid overtime; annual leave for 8.33% & 16.84%, and sick leave 12.5% & 10.44% respectively.

Radio transmissions increased by 23.94% over this period last year and increased 4.93% since last month. CAD incidents have increased by 49.46% over last year and increased 8.79% since last month. The primary reason for the increase in transmissions is likely due to the new arrival of field personnel as well as increased radio use by allied agencies. Increased reporting standards have also increased the use of CAD. The increase in incidents is primarily due to the increase in population reporting more and more information to DPS. The increases over last month are due to an increase in days to report between February and March.

PUBLIC RELATIONS COORDINATOR

The month of March proved to be a very busy period in the public relations coordinator's office. This office continues to provide live traffic reports to News Channel 8 and KUUB 94.5 FM radio. Feedback from both entities for our services as been extremely positive as viewers/listeners appreciate the up to the minute accuracy of these reports.

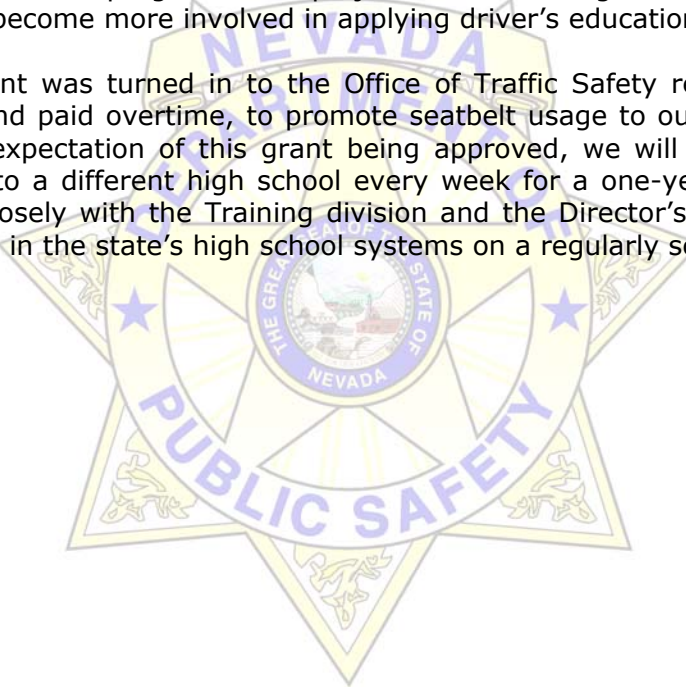
The Department of Public Safety received an award from the local chapter of the Salvation Army this month for the most funds raised from area law enforcement agencies during the month of December. Personnel from the Patrol division, along with help from the Parole and Probation division, volunteered their time in uniform to raise money for this essential organization. Our award will be displayed in the Reno NHP office until June and then will be placed in the Parole and Probation office for the remainder of the year.

Members from NHP and Parole and Probation attended a career day in Fallon, along with Peggy Berryman from the Personnel Division. Several interests' cards and applications were filled out at the event in an effort to attract more individuals to our department.

Also during the month, a traffic safety presentation was given to a company in Sparks, ALS Chemex. Employees had the opportunity to ask questions as well as to be updated on the recent additions and changes to our state's traffic laws.

The department public information officers had their quarterly meeting in Carson City and each discussed their area's programs and projects. Director Togliatti conveyed his support and desire for us to become more involved in applying driver's education to our youth.

Lastly, a federal grant was turned in to the Office of Traffic Safety requesting equipment, handout materials and paid overtime, to promote seatbelt usage to our Nevada high school students. With the expectation of this grant being approved, we will be able to provide a safety presentation to a different high school every week for a one-year period. This office continues to work closely with the Training division and the Director's office in an effort to expand our presence in the state's high school systems on a regularly scheduled basis.



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Carson City/Minden/Lake Tahoe